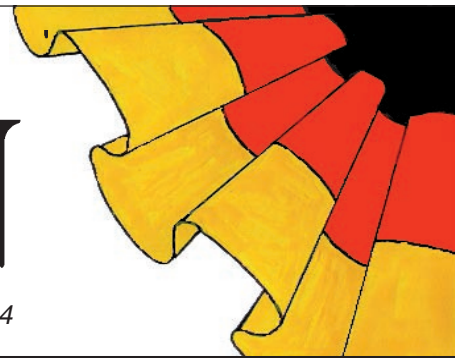


# THE CITIZEN

Vol. 33, No. 16

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

August 10, 2004



Stuttgart, Garmisch and Oberammergau, Germany

# DUIs *on the rise*

Pages 8 & 9



graphic design by Amy Bugala

INSIDE THIS  
EDITION



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## Rockin' & rollin' on Patch Barracks

The new Patch Skate Park celebrates summer with an "extreme" skateboard competition and an under-21 concert.



Page 15

## SOCEUR takes softball title

Special Operations Command, Europe, holds off a hard-charging squad of Marines to claim the 6th ASG's unit-level title.



## Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



### Roses to:

AAFES, for bringing Subway to Patch Barracks, Charley's Steakery to Kelley Barracks and Pizza Hut to Robinson Barracks. In addition to being touches of home, these new operations are much appreciated expansions of the on-post dining options in the Stuttgart area.

**The organizers of the July 28 skate board competition on Patch Barracks.** In addition to making good use of one of our community's fine new facilities, this was a great opportunity for our young skaters to display their skills in a supportive atmosphere of healthy competition.

(A "rose within a rose" to the competitors and fans, who ensured that this was a great event).

### Thorns to:

**Members of the Stuttgart military unit** who attended an off-post luncheon in battle dress uniforms. Unit personnel – including senior leadership – apparently disregarded both official policy and force protection concerns by assembling *en masse* in uniform off their installation. Not good.

**The handful of employees of offices on Patch Barracks Finance Row** who park all day in the 30-minute spaces intended for their customers.

One recent morning, I watched an employee park at 8:30 a.m. and set her parking disk for 11 a.m. At 6 p.m., the car had not moved. In addition to this being poor customer service, I'd like to think that these professional members of our community would be a bit more attentive to the rules.

E-mail comments to [citizen@6asg.army.mil](mailto:citizen@6asg.army.mil) or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

## Driving drunk? I'm rooting for you

By Hugh C. McBride  
Commentary

I spent much of my senior year in college hoping that my best friend would kill himself.

To be precise, I was hoping that he would kill *only* himself.

Like many of us who were in our early 20s during the late 80s, Danny (not his real name) enjoyed an adult beverage or eleven to commemorate milestones such as passing a test, ending a relationship or waking up alive.

In Danny's case, though, on more than one occasion the most important ritual occurred the next day, when someone would help him find his vehicle – the one he'd driven home the night before, but had no idea where he'd parked – inspect it to verify the absence of any ominous dents, then endure his inevitable "I promise, I'm never going to do that again," speech.

Every time he said it, Danny may have really believed that he'd never be drunk behind the wheel again. But the rest of us knew it was just a matter of time.

From the vantage point of a decade and a half, it's obvious that Danny was a classic alcoholic. One drink led to five, and five was just a speed bump on the road to oblivion.

In four years, I never saw him "happily tipsy" – he went from stone-cold sober to raging and incoherent. (And since "raging and incoherent" was the purpose of many of our parties, no one paid much notice – at least until he returned senior

year with a vehicle all his own.)

The topic of our failure to get Danny the help he needed is worthy of a commentary all its own – and has been the topic of more than one of my late-night, ceiling-staring meditations. But the purpose of this diatribe is to address one specific aspect of Danny's story – the part I call "the idiot in the driver's seat."

Even in our post-adolescent stupidity, we knew that Danny had no business behind the wheel when he'd been anywhere near alcohol, and we did our honest best to keep him away from the ignition switch. We wouldn't let him drive when we were going out, and several times we literally wrestled him to the ground to get his keys away from him.

But the fact remains that every drunk driving episode Danny undertook began with a sober decision to involve himself with alcohol and an automobile.

He wasn't short of friends and he wasn't short of support – whether he wanted to drink himself into next week or check himself into rehab, one of us would have been there help make his wish come true.

All he had to give in return was a shred of concern for his fellow humans

*If you don't care about the effect on your family or friends, why should I?  
But inevitably one of "our" drunk drivers is going to kill somebody.*

and the keys to his car. But apparently that was too much to ask.

And I guess that's where my compassion for Danny ended – when I realized that every time he drove to a bar or a party he was making a conscious decision to risk not only his own life but also the lives of everyone unlucky enough to be on the road with him.

I have a similar contempt for the many members of the Stuttgart and Garmisch military communities who have been involved in the area's recent dramatic increase in DUI arrests.

Now, I'm enough of a libertarian to celebrate your right to destroy your own life – and if you don't care about the effect on your family or friends, why should I? – but inevitably one of "our" drunk drivers is going to kill somebody.

So let's stop sugar-coating this topic. If you choose to drive drunk, you're not suffering from a sickness, you're not numbing yourself to stress, you're not crying out for help – you're willingly putting yourself in a position to end someone else's life, or at the very least kill yourself.

Guess which one I'm rooting for.

## ON THE STREET

### How should drunk drivers be punished?

– Compiled by The Citizen staff



**Debbie Miller**  
(Navy Reserve)

Their license should be suspended for at least 30 days if it is their 1st offense.



**Tamara Stovall**  
(Student)

They should have their licenses revoked, and they should be required to attend rehabilitation classes.



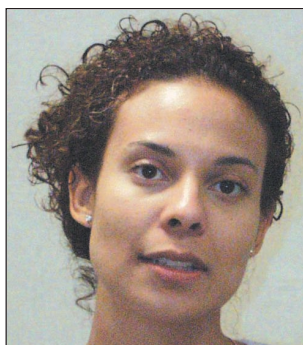
**1st Sgt. Erich Von Reichenbach**  
(Provost Marshal's Office)

Something that will negatively affect a service member's career and go in his or her permanent record.



**Thai Smith**  
(Children & Youth Services)

Loss of driving privileges. If you take someone's life while driving drunk, what excuse do you have?



**Miriam Rivera-Wagner**  
(Provost Marshal's Office.)

Have their license revoked and receive remedial training. Plus, the military should reprimand service members.



**Nasim Khan**  
(Civilian)

A seven-day suspension of their driver's license.



**Carey Williams**  
(Student)

By suspending their license for a period of time.



**Charles Yeboah**  
(Civilian)

They should be sentenced to between two and five years of prison.

## THE CITIZEN

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[www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil)





Gen. Charles Wald, U.S. European Command deputy commander; Brig. Gen. (select) Richard Mills, EUCOM's deputy director of operations; and Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester, EUCOM chief of staff, review the troops at the beginning of Sylvester's Aug. 2 Award and Departure Ceremony on Patch Barracks.

## Sylvester says goodbye

### Stuttgart ceremony honors EUCOM's departing chief of staff

Story & photos by Hugh C. McBride

Nearly four decades after being told by his ROTC instructor that he would never make it as an Army officer, Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester was honored by members of the Stuttgart military community and praised by U.S. European Command Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald for being "an eminent warrior who has truly distinguished himself in times of peace and war."

Sylvester, who had served as EUCOM chief of staff since November 2002, ended his tenure in Stuttgart with an Award and Departure Ceremony Aug. 2 on Patch Barracks.

Joining EUCOM as the U.S. military was preparing for war with Iraq, Sylvester "spearheaded the transformation of this unique combatant command," Wald said. "The world has fundamentally changed ... [and] John Sylvester has been this command's linchpin."

In addition to his leadership at EUCOM throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom, Wald also praised Sylvester's previous service as commander of the Stabilization Force in Bosnia as well as his efforts to enhance the stability of North Africa through his work with the Pan Sahel Initiative.

"He demonstrated over and over again that true leadership is universal," Wald said.

In addition to honoring Sylvester with his words, Wald also presented him with the Distinguished Service Medal. Sylvester's wife, Becki, was also recognized during the ceremony, receiving a Distinguished Public Service Award for her efforts as an advocate for military families.

Sylvester will bring his military career to a close Oct. 1 with a ceremony at Fort Knox, Ky. — where he completed advanced infantry training in preparation for service in Vietnam. He said he plans to end his career just as new recruits are beginning theirs.

"When 183 brand new Soldiers walk out on that field, I'm going to walk on the field with them," Sylvester said. "And then I'm going to just keep on walking."

**Lt. Gen. John B. Sylvester and his wife, Becki, share a smile during the EUCOM chief of staff's Aug. 2 Award and Departure Ceremony.**



## News & Notes

### Civilian personnel Townhall set

The Stuttgart military community will host a Townhall meeting Aug. 18, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., in the Patch Barracks Theater to discuss proposed revisions to the Department of Defense civilian personnel system.

DoD will be represented by Reginald Brown, assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and David L. Snyder, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Civilian Personnel Policy.

For more information call the Stuttgart Civilian Personnel Advisory Council at 421-1430/civ. 0711-729-1430.

### APOs to close Sept. 3 and 6

All Army Post Offices in Stuttgart and Garmisch will be closed Sept. 3 for a training holiday and Sept. 6 in observance of Labor Day. The APOs will reopen for normal business hours on Sept. 7.

For more about the APO closures call 421-4149/civ.0711-729-4149.

### ACS sponsors toddler playgroups

Parents of children ages 6 months to 3 years are invited to bring their little ones to playgroups in Stuttgart at the following times and locations:

- Patch Barracks Playgroup: Mondays, 10 to 11:30 a.m., building 2307 (Washington Center), second floor.
- Robinson Barracks Playgroup: Thursdays, 10 to 11:30 a.m., building 151 (community room).

For more information call Army Community Service at 430-7176/civ.0711-680-7176.

### AFTB offers Level I training

Army Family Team Building Level I training classes are Aug. 23 and 25, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Army Community Service classroom (Patch Barracks, building 2307).

Level I training is composed of eight modules and is open to anyone interested in updating their personal skills or basic knowledge of the Army.

For more information call the AFTB coordinator at 430-7176/civ.0711-680-7176.

### Get fit in Stuttgart

• Assessments for Stuttgart's **Civilian Fitness Program** will be conducted throughout September. Authorized participants may be eligible for 78 hours of paid exercise time over a six-month period.

• Stuttgart's **New & Improved Core Four Weight Management Program** will begin another series of sessions in September. Classes will be Wednesdays, noon to 1 p.m., at the Stuttgart Wellness Center in building 2307 on Patch Barracks.

For more information about these and other health-related programs call 430-4073/civ.0711-680-4073.

### 'Barefoot' auditions on Kelley

The Stuttgart Theater Center on Kelley Barracks will hold auditions for Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" Aug. 16 and 17, 7 p.m. The cast calls for two men and two women ages 22 to 65.

For more information call 421-2693/civ.0711-729-2693 or visit [www.kelleytheatre.de](http://www.kelleytheatre.de).

### Red Cross needs 'Classic' volunteers

The Stuttgart Red Cross needs 16 volunteers to assist with the Red Cross Classic at the Stuttgart Golf Course Sept. 6 (Labor Day).

A variety of jobs are available for volunteers who are at least 12 years old. For more information call 431-2818/civ.07031-15-818.

### Museum seeks military memorabilia

Ludwigsburg is establishing a garrison museum and needs memorabilia for a display that will honor the history of American forces in Ludwigsburg. For more information

For more information call 0711-463-463 or e-mail [beckner.dand@t-online.de](mailto:beckner.dand@t-online.de).

It's your future ... **VOTE** for it!

- To vote in the 2004 election, your Federal Post Card Application must be submitted by **Sept. 30**.
- All absentee ballots must be mailed by **Oct. 15**.
- For a complete list of voting assistance officers in Stuttgart and Garmisch visit [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil).
- For additional information visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).



# Brigade combat teams to affect installation sizes, Soldier assignments

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell  
Army News Service

A number of Army installations will grow by several thousand Soldiers in the next few years as a result of decisions on where new brigade combat team units of action will be temporarily based, according to senior Army officials.

Permanent locations will be decided during the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process.

"It is an operational necessity right now to build these brigade combat team units of action and get them into the field as quickly as possible," said Brig. Gen. David Ralston, director of force management for the Department of the Army's Operations Division.

While fighting the global war on terror, the Army is transforming from a division-based force into smaller, more rapidly deployable brigade-based units of action that will provide greater combat power.

Plans call for 43 modular brigade combat teams to be in place by fiscal year 2006, up from the Army's current 34 brigades.

The National Guard will also transform its current combat force to 34 modular BCTs, officials said.

The realignment process is already underway. The 3rd Infantry Division, which is preparing to return to Iraq this winter, has reset from three brigades into four BCTs, officials said.

Transformation will affect the following units:

- The 101st Airborne Division will begin resetting this fiscal year, a process that will add 3,000 Soldiers to Fort Campbell, Ky.

- A resetting of the 10th Mountain Division is also slated for this fiscal year, a process that will increase the Army presence at Fort Drum, N.Y., by 4,200 troops.

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*Once Soldiers are permanently stationed with new units of action, the Army will make every effort to allow them to remain at an installation for up to seven years.*

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- In fiscal year 2005, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment will convert to a Stryker Brigade Combat Team and move from Fort Polk, La., to Fort Lewis, Wash. This move will add about 3,900 Soldiers to Fort Lewis.

- New BCTs will also stand up at Fort Polk, which will see an overall increase of about 300 Soldiers; Fort Richardson, Alaska, where 2,600 additional Soldiers are anticipated; and Fort Hood, Texas, which will grow by about 5,000 Soldiers.

The Soldiers will be assigned to the new units of action through a variety of procedures, though officials have pledged to limit back-to-back combat tours as much as possible.

Once Soldiers are permanently stationed with new units of action, the Army will make every effort to allow them to remain at an installation for up to seven years.

Transformation planners said they considered several factors when making the realignment decisions, including the location of an installation in regard to its power projection; whether existing infrastructure and the surrounding community could handle an influx of additional Soldiers; and the ability to minimize turbulence to Soldiers and their families.

## *Schoomaker says Army on target with retention, transformation*

By Sgt. Lorie Jewell  
Army News Service

The Army is on track in its efforts to temporarily expand the active force by 30,000 Soldiers as it restructures into modular brigade combat team units of action, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker said during a July 26 press briefing.

"With our efforts to grow the active component of the Army by 30,000 Soldiers over the next three years, using supplemental dollars, we can do what we need to do," Schoomaker said. "We are changing and we are making great progress in this regard."

Schoomaker said a decision on how long the Army will need the additional 30,000 Soldiers would be made in 2006, when 10 additional BCTs are expected to be in place. Plans are to create three this year, three in fiscal 2005 and four in fiscal 2006. At that time, officials will decide if the Army needs five additional BCTs, he said.

"We know we need them now," Schoomaker said of the 30,000 Soldiers. "We don't know if we'll need an Army that large later."

In the active Army, the recruiting goal for the current fiscal year is projected to reach 101 percent; the Army Reserve is on track to hit 102 percent and the National Guard, 88 percent.

The Guard's retention rate is currently projected to reach 100.7 percent of its goal, with the active Army at 101 percent and the Reserve at 99 percent.

# Army accelerates fielding of Future Combat Systems

## FCS at-a-glance

The Army's Future Combat Systems program includes the following weapons and tools:

- Armed robotic vehicle
- Infantry carrier vehicle
- Command and control vehicle
- Recon and surveillance vehicle
- Recovery and maintenance vehicle
- Medical treatment and evacuation vehicle
- Non-line of sight mortar, cannon and launch systems
- Intelligent munitions systems
- Mounted combat system
- Unattended ground sensors
- Unmanned air vehicles (small, medium and fixed-wing)
- Unmanned multifunctional utility/logistics and equipment vehicles (transport, countermine and armed reconnaissance)

For more information about FCS and other transformation-related issues visit [www.army.mil/arnews](http://www.army.mil/arnews).

By Gary Sheftick  
Army News Service

The Army plans to accelerate the fielding of some Future Combat Systems such as armed robotic vehicles, unattended ground sensors and unattended munitions.

The Army is taking advantage of advances in wireless technology to speed FCS development, said Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

"The Army evolves by putting future ideas forward as they become available," Yakovac said.

Army leaders also plan to accelerate and expand the fielding of an automation network known as the System of Systems Common Operating Environment.

"We are basically building the Internet you use every day and moving it into battle space," Yakovac said. He said the network must be secure, yet accessible by all Soldiers and integrated with all systems.

FCS technology will be inserted into the brigade-sized units of action the Army is establishing, said Brig. Gen. Charles Cartwright, program manager for the FCS (UAs).

One of the UAs will be selected as an "experimental unit" to test all the new FCS technol-

ogy in 2008, Cartwright said.

A projected 32 of the 43 UAs will be fielded with some FCS capabilities by 2014, he said.

Over the life of the FCS program (through at least 2025), 15 UAs will become FCS Units of Action, Cartwright said. These units will be fielded with all 18 FCS elements, he said, and they will have extraordinary capabilities.

A "demonstration" version of the first manned FCS vehicle, the Non-Line of Sight Cannon, is now



courtesy DoD

**The Army's new Non-Line of Sight Cannon is tested at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. The NLOS cannon is part of the Army's Future Combat Systems.**

being tested at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. The NLOS Cannon vehicle has a 155mm weapon and weighs less than 24 tons.

It's light, but can handle recoil, said Daniel Pierson, who works for the assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology).

The current NLOS Cannon vehicle runs on rubber tracks, but Yakovac stressed that the decision has not yet been made whether the manned FCS vehicles will be tracked or wheeled.

"We're looking to combine the best of both (wheeled and tracked capabilities) in these vehicles," Yakovac said.

Another change announced this week is that all manned vehicles will receive active protective systems. Yakovac said that decision stems from experience in Iraq.

"In a 360-degree fight, everything needs protection," he said, even support vehicles.

Officials plan to field the first FCS vehicles in 2008 and spiral the development to most of the Army by 2025.

However, even with this accelerated fielding plan, the M-1 Abrams tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle and other current weapons systems will remain important for years to come, said Lt. Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, Army deputy chief of staff for programs.



# Marshall Center holds first tri-course graduation

## *Honored students include first attendees from Afghanistan*

By Laura DeFrancisco

George C. Marshall Center Public Affairs Office

The George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies graduated 147 participants from 44 countries in its first-ever tri-course ceremony July 30.

Graduates included participants from the Leaders of the 21st Century Program and the Democracy Building Program.

Also graduating were 43 participants of the new Program on Terrorism and Security Studies. Among those graduates were participants from 10 countries new to Marshall Center programs: Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, South Africa and Tunisia.

Course participants represented 21 different ministries and government agencies.

The Program on Terrorism and Security Studies was designed to improve integration and interoperability within the counter-terrorism community and also enable individual nations to cooperate successfully in the ongoing global war on terrorism.

Participants included current and future national security officials working in counter-terrorist programs.

The goal of the program was to help them appreciate the nature and magnitude of today's threat, as well as to improve their ability to counter terrorism's regional implications by providing common grounds of knowledge, understanding and contacts.

Marshall Center Director Dr. John P. Rose told the graduates, "you can change your attitude, you can change your life and you can make a difference."

Adm. Rainer Feist, deputy supreme allied commander, Europe, served as the graduation speaker. Feist said he was "impressed with the list of countries" attending the Marshall Center terrorism course.

He told the graduates, "I hope you will be the future leaders in the 21st century."

Rose reminded graduates that "only by working together can we make this world a better place."

For more information about the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies visit [www.marshallcenter.org](http://www.marshallcenter.org).



**[Main photo]** Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Adm. Rainer Feist delivers the graduation speech July 30 during the Marshall Center's first tri-course graduation ceremony. **[Inset top]** Professor Steven Sloan (left) speaks with students Lt. Col. Naveed Ashraf Chaudhri (center) from Pakistan and Mukesh Mittal from India. **[Inset bottom]** A multinational contingent of graduates from the Leaders of the 21st Century program listen to Feist's remarks.

## News & Notes

### *Don't ignore on-post quiet hours*

The Housing Office would like to remind all residents of Breitenau Housing Area that quiet hours for on-post residences are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Please be especially considerate of your neighbors during these hours.

### *Ski passes already on sale*

It may not be cold enough to ski yet, but ski passes have been on sale through the Pete Burke Center since July 22. Personnel will be selling passes in Community Bank on Artillery Kaserne Aug. 12, Sept. 22, Oct. 13 and Nov. 3 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day.)

For pricing information, necessary documentation and other details about the ski passes call 440-2461/civ. 08821-750-461.

### *ACS offers job assistance*

Community members who are looking for job information in Garmisch and Oberammergau should visit the Army Community Service Job Assistance Center on Artillery Kaserne (building 203, room 3).

In addition to job postings, the assistance center offers help with Resumix preparation, computer workstations and reference materials.

For more information or to reserve a session in the center call 442-2777/civ. 08821-759-777.

### *SNAP needs volunteers*

Garmisch's Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is always on the lookout for additional volunteers to help protect our installation. SNAP volunteers receive observer training and may be eligible for rewards based on the number of hours they serve.

For more information about how you can help keep the community safe call 442-2558/civ. 08821-759-558.

### *Tennis, anyone?*

Inspired by Wimbledon? The Mueller Fitness Center will be sponsoring a ladder-format tennis tournament in September. Interested players can register by calling 440-2747/civ. 08821-750-747 or visiting the fitness center on Sheridan Kaserne.



# Stuttgart youth rock, roll on Patch

By Melanie Casey



**Mikel Hansen, 14, demonstrates a kick flip during the first All-Grom competition. The event, sponsored by the 6th ASG Child and Youth Services, was held July 28 at the Patch Skate Park.**

Hugh McBride



**Derek Berkebille, 16, demonstrates a manual during the BMX exhibition portion of the first All-Grom competition on Patch Barracks.**

Melanie Casey



**Lead singer Wolfgang Moneke and drummer Afab Matty of the band 12 on the Meter perform at the July 30 "Under 21" concert at the Patch Skate Park.**

Melanie Casey

**Y**ou gotta start somewhere. Tony Hawk and Dave Mirra hopefuls came together for the first-ever All-Grom competition July 28 at the Patch Skate Park. ("Grom" is a skateboarding term referring to a good, usually young, unsponsored skater.)

Skateboarders in the junior (ages 9 to 13) and teenage (ages 14 to 18) divisions competed against other skaters in their age group, trying gamely to impress judges Colin Martindale, Derek Berkebille and Shane Grey.

With any lingering stage fright overcome, each of the participating skaters had a chance to perform solo for two one- to two- minute runs in front of the judges, demonstrating extreme game competition staples such as ollies, kick flips and grinds. The skaters submitted their list of tricks prior to beginning, and were judged partly on how many of those tricks they incorporated, Martindale said.

Also considered were how well the skaters used the whole park and if they landed their tricks. Each of the judges kept score, and the skater with the highest score at the end of the two runs was declared the winner. Zachary Salzwedel, 9, won the junior division and a new Clive backpack; Mikel Hansen, 14, took the top prize, a new skateboard, in the teenage division.

Inline skaters and BMX bikers participated in the event as well, but only as an exhibition, said Jeanie Nguyen, Patch Youth Services Camp Adventure counselor and one of the event's facilitators.

The BMX group rode simultaneously, performing 360-degree turns, manuals and other tricks to the cheers of the mostly-teenage crowd as well as their peers.

Martindale, who was instrumental in getting the new skate park (which opened in June) built, organized the contest at the behest of the Patch YS. The 6th Area Support Group Child and Youth Services sponsored the event.

He put the competition together, Martindale said, to reward local skaters for their hours of practice time. He also wanted to show the community what skateboarding – and skaters – are all about.

"There are games for other sports like baseball and basketball," said Martindale, "but nothing for the skaters."

A lot of people think we're a bunch of hoodlums," he added. "This gave the community a chance to see that we're really athletes."

"The competition went really well," Nguyen said. "The kids put in a lot of work to get the park built and had a chance to show off."

Martindale said the first All-Grom contest was a good learning process. He hopes to organize another contest next spring.

## Rockin' in the skate park

A few days after the All-Grom competition took place, local bands 12 on the Meter, Apathy and the last-minute addition The Bragdon Brothers took the stage in what was billed as an "Under 21" concert at the Patch Skate Park.

The event was put together by 12 on the Meter drummer and Defense Information Systems Agency-Europe employee Lance Mathysson (also known as Afab Matty), "to do something for that part of the community that usually has so few entertainment options: the kids."

Several young people – and many over-21s as well – showed up and rocked the evening away to nu-metal, pop-punk and acid-blues tunes.

"We figured we'd play a concert in a venue where [kids] can get in and, even better, have them bring their talent to the stage as well," Matty said. (Most of the Apathy band members attend Patch High School.)

The 554th Military Police held a barbecue during the event, which made it "our own 'mini-palooza,'" Matty added.

**Calling all Stuttgart-area swimmers:**  
The Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team season kick-off meeting is Sept. 1, 6 p.m., in the Patch YS.

Swimmers ages 5 to 19 are eligible to join.  
For more information call Michelle at 07031-441-881.





# Community responds to DUI increase

## Area officials stress importance of compliance with laws governing drinking, driving

By Hugh C. McBride

After years of relative stability, the number of drinking and driving arrests among members of the Stuttgart military community increased dramatically during the second quarter of 2004.

According to statistics provided by the 6th Area Support Group's Army Substance Abuse Program, more community members have been arrested for drinking and driving in the past three months than in either of the previous two years.

The 22 documented arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol from April to June are one more than in all of 2003, and four more than in 2002.

In response to this disturbing upturn, area officials are redoubling their efforts to ensure that members of the Stuttgart military community stay safe on the roads – and in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations.

"The safety of our people is a top priority for me as commander," said 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bon  y-Harris. "Driving under the influence jeopardizes that safety, and it will not be tolerated."

Bon  y-Harris noted that excellent assistance is available to help community members overcome alcohol problems. However, she said, individuals who violate the law "will continue to be dealt with firmly by this command and our local law enforcement personnel. The bottom line is, don't drink and drive."

In addition to the safety-related, ethical and mission-oriented ramifications of drinking and driving, service members and civilians who live and work in Germany can also face considerable legal and financial consequences for violating laws governing alcohol and automobiles.

Though their nation is world-renowned for, among other attributes, fast cars and good beer, Germany's *Polizei* do not look kindly upon those who mix the two.

According to Georgia Harville-Hummel, chief of international affairs at the Stuttgart Law Center, Germany has been systematically stepping up the apprehension and prosecution of drunk drivers. "Punishments are harsher and leniency is gone," she said.

Increased use of vehicle checkpoints and random stops are two methods used by the *Polizei* to detect drivers who have been drinking, she said – and Americans should expect no preferential treatment in these situations.

Whether caught in a random stop or observed driving erratically, individuals who are suspected of driving under the influence in Germany will be given a breathalyzer test on the spot, Harville-Hummel said.

Those whose results rise above a certain criteria will then be taken to a police station, where an on-call doctor will take a blood sample to determine the amount of alcohol in their system.

Throughout this process, the driver's compliance is not an option.

"In the States, they can't take blood or other bodily fluids without your consent," noted Capt. Christine Connolly, administrative law attorney

### USAREUR commander: Drunk driving threatens mission readiness

The problem of drinking and driving extends far beyond the borders of the Stuttgart military community, and has been wreaking havoc with mission readiness long before the area's recent three-month DUI spike.

U.S. Army, Europe, Commander Gen. B. B. Bell released a "Bell Sends Safety Alert" on this topic Feb. 19 – two weeks after a USAREUR Soldier just back from a yearlong deployment to Iraq died in an alcohol-related traffic accident.

"This accident underscores the risks this command faces as large numbers of USAREUR Soldiers redeploy from Iraq ... after long deployments," Bell wrote.

Bell's safety message exhorted military and civilian leaders, colleagues and family members to take an active role in traffic accident prevention.

"Do not let a tragedy happen on your watch," the commander concluded. "We must do everything we possibly can to prevent another death as we execute 'Any Mission, Anywhere.'"

with the law center. "In Germany, they can."

Another significant difference from the U.S. process is that failing a breathalyzer and blood test may result in the immediate suspension of one's driver's license – a penalty which will be reciprocated by U.S. military authorities. "U.S. Forces are bound by [the Status of Forces Agreement] to suspend the license for an equal period of time [to the German-mandated suspension]," Harville-Hummel said.

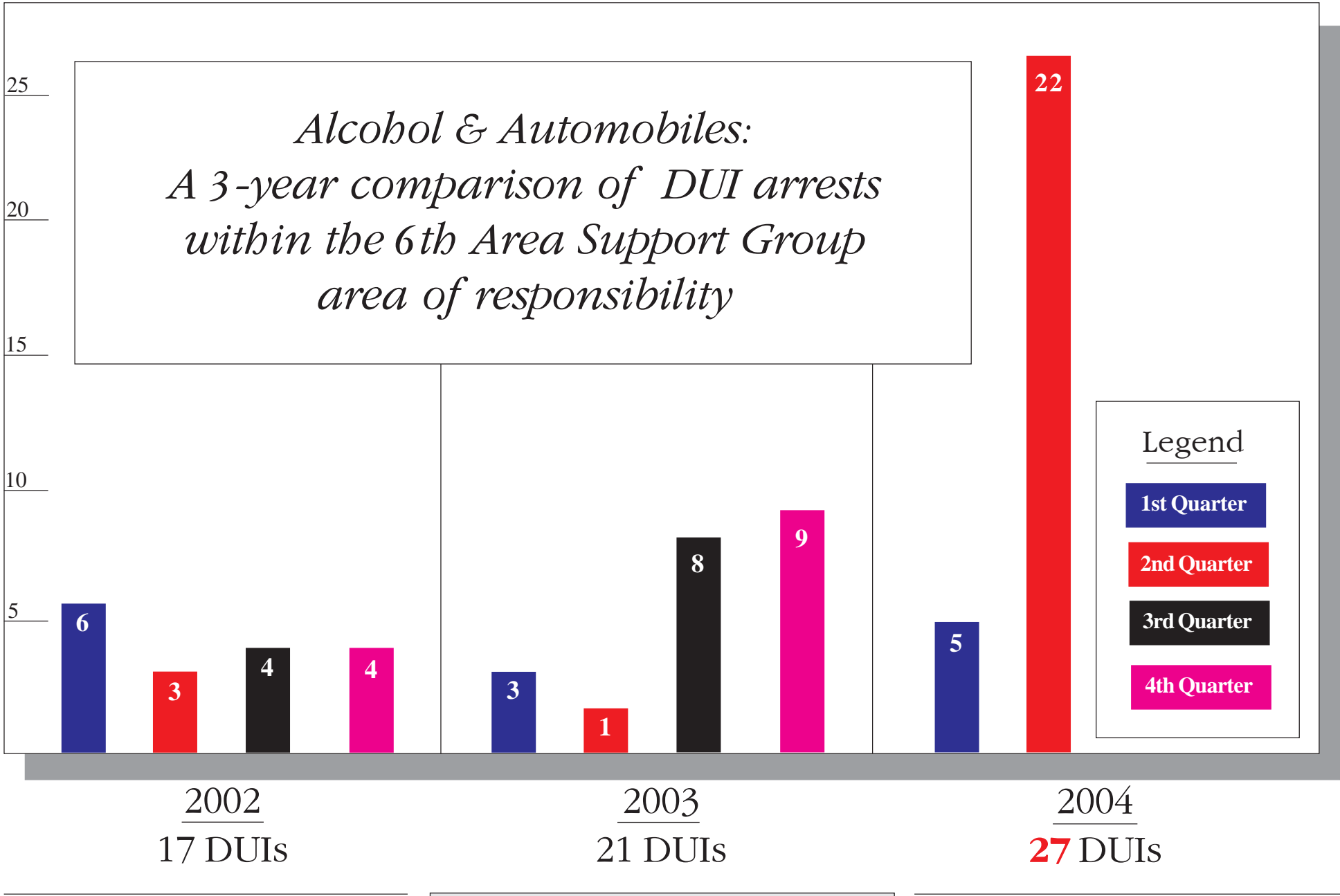
While all individuals are treated the same during the apprehension and detection phases, prosecution differs between U.S. service members and their civilian counterparts.

"Civilians fall under German jurisdiction regardless of their SOFA status," Harville-Hummel said. Thus, government employees, contractors, family members and retirees who are caught drinking and driving will all be adjudicated through the German justice system.

In addition to a suspension of their driver's licenses, civilian offenders can also face fines starting at 500 euros (for lower-level offenses) and, if the offense merits it, jail time.

The cases of service members who are caught drinking and driving by the *Polizei* are turned over to the U.S. military, which will prosecute them according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Connolly said.

Depending upon the nature and severity of their offense, offenders' punishments may range from a general officer memorandum of reprimand to prosecution under UCMJ Article 15 (Non-Judicial Punishment).



## Do you have an alcohol problem?

*Check all boxes that apply:*

- ☐ ☐ I drink to calm my nerves, forget worries or boost a sad mood.
- ☐ ☐ I experience guilt about my drinking.
- ☐ ☐ I have been unsuccessful in previous attempts to reduce or stop my drinking.
- ☐ ☐ I have lied about or attempted to hide my drinking habits.
- ☐ ☐ I have caused harm to myself or someone else as a result of drinking.
- ☐ ☐ I find that I need to drink in increasingly greater amounts in order to achieve the effect I desire from alcohol.
- ☐ ☐ I feel irritable, resentful or unreasonable when I am not drinking.
- ☐ ☐ I have experienced medical, social, family or financial problems because of drinking.
- ☐ ☐ I drink in risky situations – such as before driving or before engaging in unwanted/unprotected sex.

*If you checked **any** boxes above, consider talking with a counselor or health professional. (See box in upper right corner of this page for information.)*

Army Substance Abuse Program

## DUI arrests in Stuttgart, Garmisch

*(Statistical snapshot of area arrests dating back to the end of 2003)*

### Military Officers: 3

Air Force .....0  
Army .....2  
Marine Corps ....1  
Navy .....0

### Military Enlisted : 13

Air Force ..... 0  
Army ..... 8  
Marine Corps ..... 0  
Navy ..... 5

### Civilians: 15

GS/AF/NAF ..... 4  
Contractor/other ... 7  
Family members ... 4

Army Substance Abuse Program

## Just the facts: Drinking & driving in the United States

- Thirty percent of all Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related traffic accident in their lifetimes.
- Alcohol-impaired drivers and pedestrians account for more than 17,000 annual highway deaths.
- On average, one alcohol-related traffic fatality occurs every 31 minutes – **which makes drunk driving America's most frequently committed violent crime.**
- In 2001, more than half a million people (an average of one person every two minutes) were injured in crashes in which police reported the presence of alcohol.
- In 2002, motor vehicle crashes were the greatest single cause of death for individuals between ages 2 and 33.
- Alcohol-related vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers.
- Alcohol-related traffic injuries cost U.S. taxpayers about \$15 billion annually.
- The risk of a driver with a .08 blood-alcohol content being killed in a crash is at least 11 times that of a driver without alcohol in his or her system. At .10 BAC the risk is at least 29 times higher.

American Automobile Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving

## Local programs help service members, civilians break grip of substance abuse

By Hugh C. McBride

Jeffrey Whitesell uses one word to describe the recent spate of community members who have been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol: lucky. "They didn't kill anyone, and they got stopped by the police before they did any serious damage," said Whitesell, a prevention coordinator with the Army Substance Abuse Program on Panzer Kaserne.

Though they likely weren't feeling particularly fortunate at the time of their arrests, Department of Defense service members, civilian employees and family members in Stuttgart and Garmisch who have run afoul of laws governing alcohol and automobiles are also fortunate in the sense that a range of resources are available to assist them as they rebuild their lives and careers.

Formerly known as the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Program, the Armywide effort to eliminate the adverse effects of alcohol and other drugs is now conducted under the auspices of the Army Substance Abuse Program.

Two ASAP offices – one in Stuttgart and one in Garmisch – are located within the 6th Area Support Group area of responsibility (*see box at right for details*). Both offices offer services within the ASAP's four core areas: prevention, treatment/rehabilitation, testing and employee assistance.

### Prevention

Community members don't have to wait for law enforcement intervention before availing themselves of ASAP services, Whitesell said.

The program boasts a range of training opportunities focused not only on preventing alcohol and drug abuse but also on equipping military and civilian supervisors with the tools to recognize and address substance abuse issues in the workplace.

In addition to participating in annual awareness campaigns (such as Red Ribbon Week and "3-D" Prevention Month) and conducting regular briefings, ASAP educators are also available to provide customized training to meet organizational needs and mission requirements, Whitesell said.

And though many ASAP services have limited eligibility, prevention classes operate under an open enrollment policy. "Anyone can go through the training," Whitesell said. "Local national, contractor, it doesn't matter."

### Treatment & rehab

For individuals beyond the prevention phase, ASAP provides a range of treatment and rehabilitation services, all of which are conducted by licensed and certified substance abuse professionals, Whitesell said.

These services are available to all U.S. identification cardholders who are eligible to receive military medical services (a category that includes both family members and retirees).

Though treatment and rehabilitation may be compulsory for certain individuals (for ex-

### Substance abuse resources

#### Local

• **Army Substance Abuse Program (Garmisch)** – Artillery Kaserne, building 250, room 210; 442-2584/civ. 08821-759-584.

• **Army Substance Abuse Program (Stuttgart)** – Panzer Kaserne, building 2948; 431-2743/civ. 07031-15-743.

#### Online

• **Alcoholics Anonymous** – [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org)

• **Alcoholism and Substance Abuse** – <http://alcoholism.about.com>

• **Center for Substance Abuse Research** – [www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu)

• **Mothers Against Drunk Driving** – [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)

• **National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information** – [www.health.org](http://www.health.org)

• **National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism** – [www.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov)

• **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration** – [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov)

ample, service members who test positive for banned substances during a urinalysis or who are arrested in an alcohol- or drug-related incident), the program is not punitive in nature.

Treatment and rehabilitation services exist to help people get their lives back on track, Whitesell said, noting that it is not uncommon for an individual to self-refer or to be sent by a supervisor.

In many cases treatment specifics remain confidential, though Whitesell noted that military commanders often have access to diagnoses and progress reports to ensure mission-readiness. On the civilian side, supervisors may need to be appraised of an individual's progress if program completion is a prerequisite for continued employment.

### Employee assistance

ASAP's Employee Assistance Program encompasses a variety of voluntary counseling options to help employees, retirees and family members cope with issues that impede upon their personal and professional lives.

In addition to substance abuse assistance, EAP services also address issues such as domestic violence and depression.

As with treatment and rehabilitation services, progress within EAP is usually confidential, although if attendance is the result of workplace disciplinary action, the employee may be required to give program officials consent to divulge some information.



# Religious Education Facility reopens

## *RB building back in use after extensive renovations*

Story and photo by Mildred Green

**W**ith the snip of a ribbon, the Robinson Barracks Religious Education Facility officially reopened its doors July 23.

The state-of-the-art facility, located next to the RB chapel, had been closed for months for renovation work to provide enhanced and expanded services to the 6th Area Support Group community.

### *Spiritual well being*

During the reopening ceremony, 6th ASG Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Passamonti dedicated the upgraded facility "to the education of youth, to the progress of spiritual enlightenment and to learning."

Col. Sherrill Munn, 6th ASG chaplain, said the upgrades made the facility a more enjoyable place for community members to gather and learn.

"[The Religious Education Facility] is a really nice facility," Munn said. The enhancements and appealing new look make it "conducive to learning," he said.

Munn added that the facility would serve as a great place to have church socials and bring the community together.

Summarizing the purpose behind this project, Munn said it was about "people, families and spiritual well-being."

### *New and improved*

The revisions to the Religious Education Facility include the following improvements:

- A larger child-care area (featuring a separate room for infants)
- Four additional rooms for religious education programs
- A new kitchen with supplementary features for child safety

Renovations have also allowed for the expansion of programs, according to Ginger Jones, protestant education coordinator at RB.

Jones said she thought the revisions to the religious education center were "outstanding."

6th ASG Chief of Staff Joseph Moscone said the annex is a "great addition to the community [and will] serve more people and functions than before." The 6th ASG has been working to upgrade facilities and services on RB, Moscone said, and "this facility has become a reality of that vision ... we are proud of that."

### *Community support*

Once the ribbon was cut, the new Religious Education Facility was proclaimed officially reopened.

The celebration was moved indoors where everyone was invited to browse through the facility and enjoy cake, ice cream and refreshments.

Munn took the opportunity to thank all the individuals who put their time into this project and presented them with certificates.

The renovations on the Religious Education Facility were completed because of the great support from the community, Munn said.

One of the supporters thanked was Directorate of Public Works architect Osman Aydin who served as the project's manager and oversaw the renovation of the building from start to finish.

*For more info about religious education programs in Stuttgart call the Religious Education Center at 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.*



**6th Area Support Group Chief of Staff Joseph Moscone and a young assistant cut the ceremonial cake during RB's Religious Education Facility grand reopening celebration July 23.**





Hugh C. McBride



Hugh C. McBride



Mildred Green

*Stuttgart's Vacation Bible School 2004 brought hundreds of area children, teens and adults to "Lava Lava Island" on Panzer Kaserne and Robinson Barracks for two five-day sessions of community-building, cooperative games and activities designed to bring participants closer to the Bible.*

## VBS draws hundreds to 'Lava Lava Island'

By Hugh C. McBride

**S**outhern Germany isn't known for its tropics, but for two weeks this summer Lava Lava Island was one of the hottest spots in Stuttgart.

More a state of mind than a spot on a map, Lava Lava Island was the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School programs, which were held July 26 to 30 at Böblingen Elementary School and Aug. 2 to 6 at Robinson Barracks Elementary School.

Sponsored each summer by the 6th Area Support Group Chaplain's Office, VBS is an ecumenical effort to promote community and cooperation through Bible-centered activities for elementary-aged children.

"It's about coming together as a community," said Maureen Bridges, co-director of the Böblingen VBS effort. "The programs are for the kids, but the teens and adults [who volunteer] hear the message, too."

More than 300 children (primarily kindergartners through fifth graders) attended one of this year's two VBS weeks, which were organized and run by more than 100 teen and adult volunteers.

During the opening hours of both VBS weeks, the attendees were organized into "crews" of about 10 children, with one teen and one adult crew leader per group. Working – and playing – their way through a series of activities focused on a daily Bible point, story and verse, the crew members

overcame age differences and occasional shyness to build a functioning team to explore Christian principles.

"They have to make friends and meet someone new. And the older kids take responsibility for helping the younger ones," Bridges said. "It's like a family working together."

"It's a lot of fun," said volunteer Lauren Pidgeon, who assisted with a crew in Böblingen. "The chapel staff has made it so easy for us to just come in and have fun working with the children."

For volunteer David Lindman – who had rearranged his work schedule to be at VBS – the effort was a chance to give thanks. "The church has been so good to us, and this is a chance to give something back," he said.



# Anxiety disorders common in children

(This is the second article in a three-part series about anxiety disorders and their treatments.)

By Melanie Casey

**A**nxiety disorders (including generalized anxiety disorder, separation anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and panic disorder) are the most common mental health disorders diagnosed in children.

Up to 10 percent of young people (as many as one in every eight children ages 9 to 17) suffers from some type of anxiety disorder, according to the National Mental Health Association.

Most anxiety is normal and can even be healthy. However, in children, what differentiates this normal anxiety from a potential anxiety disorder is that it disrupts the child's life and becomes "severe and long-lasting enough to affect [his or her] ability to conduct daily activities," according to a newsletter published by the Anxiety Disorders Association of America.

"Persistent and intense anxiety that disrupts daily routine is a mental health problem that requires intervention," according to the "Anxiety Disorders and Children" fact sheet from the NMHA. If left untreated, childhood anxiety disorders may "set the stage for more serious psychiatric illness in adolescence and adulthood," said Dr. Daniel Pine, chief of Developmental and Affective Neuroscience at the National Institutes for Mental Health.

As in adults, more girls than boys suffer from anxiety disorders, and the cause is complex. There is no single answer for why one person develops an anxiety disorder and another doesn't, but what is known is that a combination of factors including brain chemistry, personality and the environment play a part, Pine said.

Biology also plays a big role: A child whose parent has an anxiety disorder is three and a half times more likely to develop an anxiety disorder than a child whose parent does not.

## How to determine if it's 'just a stage'

### Duration

- In a stage, anxious behavior is present only a small part of the time. In a true anxiety disorder, symptoms are persistent (lasting six months or more) and occupy most of the child's waking hours.

### Duress

- Listen for complaints about how the child's anxiety is affecting his or her life.

### Difficulties

- Parents should assess to what degree symptoms interfere with the child's life and keep him or her from fulfilling responsibilities at home and school.

source: National Institutes of Mental Health

palpitations.

### Obsessive/compulsive

Obsessive compulsive disorder, marked by frequent and uncontrollable thoughts (obsessions) or rituals (compulsions), appears in early childhood or adolescence, according to the NMHA.

Symptoms include repeating behaviors such as hand washing, counting and rechecking completed tasks. When the obsessions and compulsions take up so much time they begin to interfere with daily living and cause anxiety, OCD may be the problem.

### Help is available

Anxiety disorders are highly treatable, but diagnosing a child with anxiety is often more difficult than diagnosing an adult because a child isn't always forthcoming with his or her symptoms.

"Kids often suffer in silence with anxiety disorders," said Dr. Susan Swedo, chief of Pediatrics and Development Neuropsychiatry at the NIMH. "[They] don't understand why they worry or where the anxiety is coming from. They can't give their anxiety a voice."

A child with anxiety may not realize what is going on, said Dr. Beti Nissan, the Stuttgart Health Clinic pediatrician. Children can't, or won't, always verbalize their fears, she added.

Behavior change is one of the most visible signs of anxiety in children, so it is up to parents and physicians to determine if anxiety is a factor in the change.

"[Anxiety is] definitely something kids have," Nissan said, noting that symptoms can start to show up in a 4- or 5- year old.

Treatment for children includes a combination of antidepressants and behavioral therapy.

For more information about childhood anxiety visit the Anxiety Disorders Association of America Web site [www.adaa.org](http://www.adaa.org) or the National Institutes of Mental Health Web site at [www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov).

## Generalized anxiety disorder

One of the most common anxiety disorders diagnosed in children is Generalized Anxiety Disorder. Children with this affliction worry about almost everything, which makes them tense, anxious and nervous much of the time. Physical symptoms such as difficulty concentrating, irritability and sleep problems may arise.

Children with GAD may find that they try to control the worry, but can't.

## Social anxiety disorder

Social anxiety disorder appears a little later in a child's life, usually in the teenage years.

The disorder is marked by an unrelenting fear of specific social or performance situations such as speaking in class or eating in public.

Children affected by this disorder tend to avoid the feared situation and can be seen as overly-sensitive. The notion of having to do the feared action may trigger panic symptoms such as shortness of breath, sweating and heart

## DoD releasing military health survey data to gov't researchers

American Forces Press Service

**D**efense Department health officials are making anonymous data taken from surveys of active-duty service members available to government researchers.

Since 1980, DoD has conducted confidential, anonymous surveys among active-duty members through an instrument called the "Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel."

Military researchers generally use summaries of the data to develop health promotion and prevention programs for military forces, officials said.

Data from the most recent survey, taken in 2002, has been placed in a public-use file by researchers working on such issues as strategies for decreasing alcohol abuse and tobacco use.

*Officials stressed that all information made available for public use is anonymous and contains no identifying information.*

Under research rules, DoD is required to notify the public this data is being used by researchers.

"This will be the first time that a public-use file for the health-related behaviors survey will be used since the survey series began," according to a DoD health affairs news release.

More than 12,500 randomly selected service members took the 2002 survey. Results were announced in March 2004.

Officials stressed that all information made available for public use is anonymous and contains no identifying information.





**Robert Spessert and his children Emily, 10, Ethan, 7, and Molly, 12, enjoy the vineyard view during the Stuttgart German American Wandering Club's 30th annual Volksmarch July 24.**

# The wonder of wandering

## *Germans, Americans gather for annual Volksmarch on Robinson Barracks*

Photo and story by Melanie Casey

Camaraderie, friendship and a sense of belonging. These, according to Stuttgart German American Wandering Club President Wayne Henry, are but some of the benefits of participating in a *Volksmarch*.

Participants had a chance to garner some of these benefits – and get some fresh air and exercise at the same time – during the 30th annual SGAWC Volksmarch held July 24 and 25.

The start and finish point of the annual event was located in building 151 on Robinson Barracks, making it easy for those new to the area or unfamiliar with Volksmarching to give it a try.

More than 1,700 marchers were took part in the two-day event, SGAWC Treasurer Tom Francis said, with participants coming from as far away as France, Austria and Switzerland. About half of the participants were Americans, Henry added.

### *Fun & friendly*

First-timers as well as veteran Volksmarchers walked among the quiet vineyards of the *Burgholzhof* near RB and through Stuttgart's scenic Neckar Valley. They could choose either a 5-, 10- or 20-kilometer route.

Pit stops along the way offered cider, tea, German pretzels and other refreshments. A fest tent was set up at the finish in which participants could unwind and replenish the carbohydrates lost during the walk.

Mother Nature did not want to seem to cooper-

‘ *It's a lot of work, but we work together and we are a real team.*

**Hans Broeckerhoff**  
*German American Wandering Club*

ate July 24, but that did not deter the hundreds of Volksmarchers – many with children and dogs in tow – who showed up and gallantly strode through the rain.

In Germany, “the weather determines what you wear, not what you do,” Francis said.

“We enjoy our *Volkswandertag*,” said SGAWC First Vice President Hans Broeckerhoff. “It's a lot of work, but we work together and we are a real team.”

Finishers who paid a 3.80-euro entrance fee were awarded a commemorative SGAWC glass.

“We enjoy walking. It's something to get the family out to exercise,” said Amenda Brown, who accompanied her two young daughters on this year's march.

*For more information visit the Stuttgart German-American Wandering Club Web site at [www.volks-marching.com](http://www.volks-marching.com).*



# The 'Ironmen' of Stuttgart's Special Ops

## Six area service members complete feat in Austria, Germany

By Melanie Casey

**S**wim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles and then run a marathon (26.2 miles). Most people would be hard-pressed to complete even one of these events, let alone all three one after the other.

But six Patch Barracks and Panzer Kaserne-based service members have done just that.

Lt. Cdr. Jamie Sands, Capt. Kyle Reardon, Maj. Dave Snider and Maj. Greg Soukup, all from Special Operations Command, Europe, along with Capt. Ricky Mills and Maj. Sean Mulvaney from 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), took part in Ironman-distance triathlons in July.

Soukup and Reardon traveled to Klagenfurt, Austria, for the July 4 Ironman Austria competition, while the others competed in the July 11 Ironman Germany in Frankfurt. All of them finished, which is a feat in itself.

### Training as a team

Having previously competed in several marathons and shorter-distance triathlons, Reardon, a JAG officer for SOCEUR, decided to compete in his first Ironman competition this year in part because, "if you start doing triathlons and you like them," he said, "the Ironman becomes your goal."

When he was stationed with SOCEUR last year and moved to Germany, Reardon found not only the time to train for an Ironman, but also a group of other athletes with whom he could work out, he said.

His training for Ironman Austria began in January with an intense, six-days-a-week schedule that eventually included 3,000- to 4,000-meter pool swims, five-hour bike rides and three-hour runs.

Training schedules were similar for Stuttgart's other "ironmen."

Reardon, Sands, Snider and Soukup were in constant contact during their Ironman preparation. They not only trained together much of the time, Reardon said, but also shared training tips including what type of gear worked best, what to eat and how much to drink.

### Discipline, commitment

Reardon competes in endurance events such as the Ironman to "see what [I'm] capable of," he said. "It takes patience, discipline and commitment. You develop those skills by committing yourself to this event. There are physical benefits, but you also gain skills that go into other aspects of your life. The folks that do it are the only ones that really understand."

Reardon's goal for his first Ironman was to survive the swim, maintain his place on the bike and do well on the run, he said. "Initially," he added, "my goal was to finish. But I wanted to do better than just finish."

His time of 11 hours, 55 minutes beat his personal goal of 12 hours.

Midway through the race, Reardon swore he'd never do another Ironman race, he said, but by the time he crossed the finish line, he had changed his mind: He's looking forward to competing in another Ironman event next summer and also hopes to qualify for next year's Boston Marathon.

### Mind, body challenge

Maj. Dave Snider, the SOCEUR J-3 Cur-



Mike Salzwedel

**Maj. Sean Mulvaney looks remarkably fresh as he crosses the finish line of the Ironman Germany competition July 11 in 13 hours, 17 minutes.**

rent Operations officer, competed in his first Ironman competition along with Mulvaney, Mills, and Sands at Ironman Germany.

Having done shorter-distance triathlons for about 10 years, he "always wanted to do an Ironman," he said, "but it's like the Wright Brothers wanting to fly; it's fear of the unknown."

But Snider overcame that fear to finish in 13 hours, 17 minutes and 6 seconds, well under his goal of 16 hours.

"I was afraid to push it at times," he said of his performance. "But if it started to feel bad, I'd think back to my Special Forces training – mentally, the Ironman was not as bad as that," he said. "In our line of business [Special Operations] we have a lot more to draw on. A lot of [endurance racing] is mental."

SOCEUR's commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, and senior enlisted advisor, Master Chief Paul Knauer, were very supportive of the SOCEUR Ironman endeavor, Snider noted.

Snider said his motivation for taking on this year's Ironman Germany was "the personal challenge of doing something and never wanting to look back and say 'I wish I had.'"

He, like Reardon, plans on competing in another Ironman next summer.

Sands, also competing in his first-ever Ironman-distance triathlon competition, finished in 12 hours, 26 minutes, and felt pretty good during the race, he said. "I highly recommend the race to anyone looking for a physical and mental challenge," he added.

Mulvaney, the 1/10 SFG (A) physician, finished in 13 hours, 17 minutes and 36 seconds.

Mills, a 1/10 SFG (A) team captain, finished Ironman Germany in 12 hours, 32 minutes and 35 seconds.

Soukup led the pack with a time of 10 hours, 39 minutes.

Next year's Ironman Austria is July 3. Ironman Germany is slated for July 10.

Do you have what it takes?

For more information about these and other Ironman races visit [www.ironman.de](http://www.ironman.de), [www.ironmanaustria.com](http://www.ironmanaustria.com) or [www.ironman-live.com](http://www.ironman-live.com).



Melanie Casey

**Maj. Dave Snider prepares for a long morning bike ride. Snider and Stuttgart's other "Ironmen" trained intensively in preparation for Ironman Triathlons in July.**

## 6th Area Support Group Youth Sports gears up for soccer season

### Soccer clinics

**Ages 10 to 16: Aug. 28 and 29, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Ages 5 to 9: Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Members of the 5-time Department of Defense Dependents' Schools champion Patch High School girls' soccer team will help young athletes develop overall soccer skills.

Clinics cost \$25 per child and will be held on Patch Barracks' Bowman Field. To register or for more information call 431-2616/civ. 0711-07031-15-616.





# SOCEUR takes unit-level softball title

## *Outduels Marine squad in two epic contests on Patch Barracks*

By Hugh C. McBride

Major League Baseball will have to go a long way this October to top the postseason passion displayed during the final day of the 6th Area Support Group's unit-level softball championship tournament July 30 on Patch Barracks' Husky Field.

Thirteen teams contended for the tournament title and the two available spots in the Installation Management Agency Europe Region tournament. But when the dust settled (literally, in this case) July 30, the squad from Special Operations Command, Europe, had claimed the top spot.

However, SOCEUR, which was also the unit-level league's regular-season champion, had to beat back a ferocious challenge by the Marines of Headquarters, Marine Corps Forces Europe to take the title.

A June 29 contest between SOCEUR and MARFOREUR stretched into extra innings (and then, because of failing daylight, was suspended and resumed the next day) before SOCEUR gave the Marines their first loss of the tournament.

MARFOREUR then fought its way back from the losers' bracket of the double-elimination tournament, defeating the "Outcasts" of Stuttgart's Medical and Dental clinics for the right to take on SOCEUR in the title game.

With deepening shadows once again falling across the diamond, SOCEUR and MARFOREUR faced off for the final time. The contest and the tournament were not decided until the final play of the game, when a MARFOREUR runner was thrown out in a close play at home plate.



Hugh C. McBride



Melanie Casey



Hugh C. McBride

**The 6th Area Support Group's 2004 unit-level softball postseason tournament was truly an action-packed event. Regular-season champion Special Operations Command, Europe, defeated Marine Corps Forces, Europe, 12-11 in the title game.**